AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for creating a rights expression for association with an item of digital content for use in a digital rights management system for controlling use of the item of digital content in accordance with the rights expression, said method comprising:

specifying rights expression information using a computer, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item of digital content, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

generating a template of said rights expression information using a computing device, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

generating an identification for said template; and

transmitting said identification for said template to a device adapted to situationally determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template,

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and situationally determining untransmitted variables.

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and situationally determining untransmitted variables.

5. (Currently Amended)   A method for creating a rights expression for association with an item of digital content for use in a digital rights management system for controlling use of the item of digital content in accordance with the rights expression, said method comprising:

specifying rights expression information using a computer, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item of digital content, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

generating a template of said rights expression information using a computing device, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

generating an identification for said template;

transmitting said identification for said template along with machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to a device, wherein said device is adapted to follow said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template;

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

6. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 5, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 5, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

8. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting said identification for said template to a device adapted to follow machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

9. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 8, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

10. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 8, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

11. (Currently Amended)   A system for creating a rights expression for association with an item of digital content for use in a digital rights management system for controlling use of the item of digital content in accordance with the rights expression, said system comprising:

means for specifying rights expression information using a computer, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item of digital content, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

means for generating a template of said rights expression information using a computing device, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

means for generating an identification for said template; and

means for transmitting said identification for said template to a device adapted to situationally determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template,

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, wherein said transmitting means comprises:

means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and situationally determining untransmitted variables.

14. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, wherein said transmitting means comprises:

means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and situationally determining the untransmitted variables.

15. (Currently Amended)   A system for creating a rights expression for association with an item of digital content for use in a digital rights management system for controlling use of the item of digital content in accordance with the rights expression, said system comprising:

means for specifying rights expression information using a computer, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item of digital content, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

means for generating a template of said rights expression information using a computing device, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

means for generating an identification for said template; and

means for transmitting said identification for said template along with machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to a device, wherein said device is adapted to follow said

machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

16. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 15, wherein said transmitting means comprises:

means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

17. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 15, wherein said transmitting means comprises:

means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

18. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for transmitting said identification for said template to a device, wherein said device is adapted to follow machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

19. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, wherein said transmitting means comprises:

means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

20. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, wherein said transmitting means comprises:

means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

21. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, wherein said means for specifying, said means for generating said template and said means for generating said identification comprise devices of a computer system.

22. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, wherein said means for specifying, said means for generating said template and said means for generating said identification comprise computer readable instructions recorded on a computer readable medium.

23. (Previously Presented)   A device for controlling use of an item in accordance with a rights expression for use in system for creating the rights expression for association with the item, said device comprising:

means for receiving an identification for a template of rights expression information and a variable from said rights expression information, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item and including at least one element having said variable and a corresponding value for said variable, said template of said rights expression information, including said value for said variable removed from said element; and

means for situationally determining said variable and enforcing said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 23, wherein said rights expression information includes one or more variables associated with said identification for said template

received in a predetermined order and the device further includes means for situationally determining untransmitted variables.

26. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 23, wherein said rights expression information includes one or more variables associated with said identification for said template received in a non-predetermined order and the device further includes means for situationally determining the untransmitted variables.

27. (Previously Presented)   A device for controlling use of an item in accordance with a rights expression for use in system for creating the rights expression for association with the item, said device comprising:

means for receiving an identification for a template of rights expression information and a variable from said rights expression information, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item and including at least one element having said variable and a corresponding value for said variable, said template of said rights expression information, including said value for said variable removed from said element;

means for situationally determining said variable and enforcing said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

means for receiving said identification for said template along with machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions; and

means for following said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

28. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 27, wherein said rights expression information includes one or more variables associated with said identification for said template received in a predetermined order and the device further includes means for determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

29. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 27, wherein said rights expression information includes one or more variables associated with said identification for said template received in a non-predetermined order and the device further includes means for determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

30. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving said identification for said template; and

means for following machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

31. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 30, wherein said rights expression information includes one or more variables associated with said identification for said template received in a predetermined order and the device further includes means for determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and means for determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

32. (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 30, wherein said rights expression information includes one or more variables associated with said identification for said template received in a non-predetermined order and the device further includes means for determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and means for determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

33. (Original) The device of claim 23, wherein said means for receiving and said means for enforcing comprise computer readable instructions recorded on a computer readable medium.